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SUBJECT: PROGRESS REPORT ON DRAFTING OF ASSEMBLY'S RULES OF PROCEDURE

SUMMARY. CAPTAIN ARDILL, UNIONIST MEMBER OF STANDING COMMITTEE TO DEVELOP DRAFT RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR ASSEMBLY, SAYS DELIBERATIONS ARE BOGGING DOWN, PRIMARILY ON SDLP INSISTENCE ON ELIMINATING ALL TRACES OF FORMER SYSTEM. MID-OCTOBER, RATHER THAN MID-SEPTEMBER, WOULD IN HIS

VIEW BE MORE REASONABLE DATE TO EXPECT ASSEMBLY TO MEET AGAIN. ON GENERAL SITUATION HE IS PESSIMISTIC. ALTHOUGH PROVOS' MILITARY CADRES HAVE SUFFERED HEAVILY LATELY, THE BRAINS ARE STILL INTACT. THESE, IN HIS VIEW, TOGETHER WITH YOUNG BOYS AND GIRLS TO DO DONKEY WORK, MEAN CONTINUED VIOLENCE FOR A LONG TIME. END SUMMARY.

1. CAPTAIN AUSTIN ARDILL, ONE OF TWO UNOFFICIAL UNIONISTS (OTHER IS PAISLEY) ON STANDING COMMITTEE TO DRAFT RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR ASSEMBLY, ON AUGUST 24 GAVE A RUN DOWN ON PRESENT STATUS OF COMMITTEE'S

DELIBERATIONS. MAIN POINT OF HIS REMARKS WAS THAT EARLY HOPES FOR AGREED RULES OF PROCEDURE ARE FADING. INSTEAD OF COMPLETING JOB AND BEING READY FOR AN ASSEMBLY MEETING IN MID-SEPTEMBER, IT NOW LOOKS, ACCORDING TO ARDILL, AS THOUGH A MORE REALISTIC DATE WOULD BE

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MID-OCTOBER.

2. IN STANDING COMMITTEE'S DISCUSSIONS THERE IS A FIRM DIVISION, WITH

UNOFFICIAL UNIONISTS (ARDIL AND PAISLEY) AND OFFICIAL UNIONISTS (FORMER FINANCE MINISTER KIRK AND AN UNKNOWN NAMED STRONGE), ON ONE SIDE, AND TWO SDLP MEMBERS (IVAN COOPER AND AUSTIN CURRIE), ALLIANCE MAN BASIL GLASS AND CHAIRMAN MINFORD, ALSO A UNIONIST, ON THE

OTHER. IN ARDILL'S VIEW, GLASS "MIGHT JUST AS WELL BE AN SDLP MAN" AND MINFORD "IS THE PAID LACKEY OF WHITELAW".

3. ISSUES THAT ARE DIVIDING COMMITTEE ARE MORE ON COSMETIC SIDE THAN IN SUBSTANCE OF CONTROL OF PROCEDURE. ACCORDING TO ARDILL, SDLP SIDE WILL AGREE TO NOTHING THAT WILL INCLUDE MENTION OF CROWN OR QUEEN. ANYTHING RESEMBLING PHYSICAL SET UP OF OLD HOUSE OF COMMONS HERE (SIMILAR TO COMMONS AT WESTMINSTER) IS ALSO UNACCEPTABLE. THEY WANT A NEW CHAMBER, SEMICIRCULAR IN LAY OUT, WITH A LOT OF EXPENSIVE AND SOPHISTICATED VOTING EQUIPMENT. UNIONIST SIDE BELIEVES THAT OLD COMMONS CHAMBER HERE WOULD BE PERFECTLY ADEQUATE WITH ADDITION OF BENCHES FOR 7 OR 8 MORE PLACES. THEIR IDEA IS ALSO TO FOCUS ON TRADITIONAL DEBATING FORMAT WITHOUT A LOT OF EXPENSIVE ELECTRONIC GADGETRY. ARDILL, AND ANOTHER OF UNIONISTS WHOM HE DID NOT IDENTIFY,

WILL SHORTLY BE LEAVING FOR A TRIP TO BELGIUM AND HOLLAND TO STUDY LOCAL ASSEMBLY PROCEDURES THERE. IN COURSE OF A COMING HOLIDAY TRIP TO CANADA, HE MAY ALSO LOOK AT LOCAL ASSEMBLY PROCEDURES THERE AS WELL.

4. ON SITUATION IN GENERAL ARDILL IS VERY PESSIMISTIC. ASSEMBLY, HE SAID, WILL NOT SOLVE FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEM, WHICH ARISES OUT OF FACT THAT BRITAIN DESIRES TO GET RID OF A NASTY PROBLEM BY PUSHING ULSTER INTO A UNITED IRELAND. HE CONCEDED THAT HEAVY INROADS HAVE BEEN MADE IN PROVISIONALS' MILITARY CADRES, BUT FINDS THAT BRAINS OF VIOLENCE CAMPAIGN ARE STILL INTACT. IN ARDILL'S VIEW, THESE FACTS, PLUS EASE WITH WHICH PROVOS CAN GET YOUNG BOYS AND GIRLS TO DO DONKEY WORK, MEAN THAT VIOLENCE WILL GO ON FOR A LONG TIME. PENBERTHY

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